

15 NOV 1974

**BOB CONSIDINE**

Speaking of Football . . .

GEN. VERNON WALTERS, the deputy chief of the CIA who testified in the trial of the Watergate five, was clearly uncomfortable when asked to recall this or that conversation with principal Watergate figures. The general could hardly plead a shaky memory. As an interpreter for Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon he proved to be an absolute genius. He never took a note, never paused as he translated back and forth. Ike once told a joke in the middle of a speech to President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, and laughed briefly. The then Col. Walters relayed Ike's lengthy message to Bourguiba in French. Word for word. When he came to the joke part, Walters told it with gusto, and laughed. In French.

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Helms ordered home to explain coverup note

By MURIEL DORBIN

Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Judge John J. Sirica yesterday ordered that Ambassador Richard M. Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, be brought from Iran to federal District Court to testify about a controversial memorandum suggesting the FBI limit its investigation of the Watergate case.

Defense attorneys in the Watergate coverup trial have been seeking to uncover more information about an apparent contradiction in the attitude of the CIA toward the FBI probe of Watergate.

Even James F. Neal, assistant prosecutor, referred to the "strange memorandum" written June 23, 1972 by Mr. Helms—11 days after a team from the Nixon re-election committee broke into Democratic headquarters at Watergate.

That memorandum appeared to reinforce concern—then being expressed by the White House—that the FBI inquiry into the Mexican connection of the Watergate affair could collide with CIA operations in that area.

Mr. Helms, then CIA director, suggested in the memorandum that the FBI inquiries be confined to those already arrested or under suspicion.

Defense attorneys contended that this proposal was in direct conflict with later assertions by both Mr. Helms and Vernon B. Walters, deputy director of the CIA, that the FBI investigation would not endanger intelligence operations in Latin America.

After being told by Mr. Neal that General Walters did not learn of the 1972 Helms memorandum until June, 1973, Judge Sirica gave orders to bring Mr. Helms to the witness stand.

"Get Mr. Helms here"

"You can't cross-examine a memorandum. Get on the telephone and get Mr. Helms here," the judge said testily.

There have been frequent references to White House efforts to build a "CIA defense"

in the Watergate case by suggesting that the political burglary was an intelligence operation.

Both Mr. Helms and General Walters have testified that there was White House pressure for the CIA to block the FBI investigation of Watergate and also for the intelligence agency to provide funds for the seven political burglars.

General Walters, who was recalled to the stand for further cross-examination late yesterday, has testified that he threatened to resign rather than involve the CIA in the proposed interference with the FBI inquiries.

The defense effort to reintroduce the CIA link to Watergate followed a day in which the Watergate jury listened to Frederick C. LaRue, a former Nixon campaign aide convicted of obstructing justice, describe the increasingly urgent efforts to raise hush money for the Watergate defendants in 1973.

While preparations were being made to celebrate the second Nixon inaugural, presidential aides were holding crisis meetings to discuss where they could find more money to maintain the silence of the Watergate burglars, LaRue testified.

Hush money described

Asked the purpose of such payments, the witness said: "To fulfill the commitments made to the defendants. It was my understanding that if these commitments were not kept, these defendants might divulge certain information that would lead the Watergate episode back to the Nixon re-election committee."

LaRue said, however, that the defendants were almost invariably given less money than they requested. Over a period of eight months almost \$500,000 was channeled to the seven burglars, much of which went to their lawyers.

By January, 1973, an entire White House secret fund of \$350,000 had been turned over

to LaRue for the defendants' payments. The witness testified that he accepted \$280,000 of that money while wearing gloves, because he was afraid his fingerprints might be traced.

During the month of February, 1973, LaRue said, he used employees of the re-election committee to deliver a total of \$60,000 to William O. Bittman, lawyer for E. Howard Hunt, Jr., one of the defendants. The money was left in Mr. Bittman's mailbox.

On trial in the Watergate coverup case are John N. Mitchell, former attorney general, H. R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, John D. Ehrlichman, former White House domestic adviser, Robert C. Mardian, former assistant attorney general, and Kenneth W. Parkinson, former Nixon campaign aide. They are charged with obstructing justice and perjury.

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Sirica Wants Former CIA Chief to Testify on 1972 Memo

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica said yesterday that he will demand former CIA Director Richard Helms' testimony at the Watergate cover-up trial in an effort to clear up the CIA's backstage maneuverings in the scandals. Helms is now ambassador to Iran.

The long-simmering controversy centers on what Watergate prosecutors have called a "very strange memo" that Helms wrote 11 days after discovery of the bugging and breaking in at Democratic National Committee headquarters here.

In the memo, Helms called for a tight rein on the FBI's investigations of the Watergate case.

The directive, dated June 28, 1972, was addressed to CIA Deputy Director Vernon W. Walters, and said in part that "[the CIA] still adhere to the request that they [the FBI] restrict themselves to the personalities already arrested or directly under suspicion and that they desist from expanding this investigation into other areas which may well, eventually, run afoul of our operations."

By contrast, both Helms and Walters have repeatedly testified that they told both White House officials and former FBI Director L. Patrick Gray that the Watergate investigation would not jeopardize any CIA activity.

The dispute over the Helms memo came up at the cover-up trial yesterday afternoon when Walters was called back to the witness stand for cross-examination by attorneys for former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

Chief trial prosecutor James F. Neal objected hotly, however, to any attempts to question Walters about the document. Although the memo was addressed to him, the CIA deputy director insists that he never saw, heard of or knew of the existence of the memo until a year later, in June, 1973, Neal told the court.

As a result, the prosecutor said that only Helms could be properly questioned about the document, but he emphasized that the government has no intention of calling him as a

prosecution witness. He said defense lawyers should be required to summon Helms if they want an explanation.

Judge Sirica indicated his agreement on that score, but made plain that he would insist on Helms' appearance at some point in the trial and that he expects the prosecution to make sure he gets here.

"Let's get him back here and do it the right way—instead of trying to cross-examine a memorandum," Sirica said.

Told that Helms was in Iran, the judge told the prosecutors, "Well, why don't you get on the telephone and bring him back to this country. I think he'll come back here if I order him to come back."

Neal promised that "we'll bring him back," but said once again that the former CIA director's appearance should be put off until the defense begins presenting its case. Neal indicated that the prosecution has no intention of vouching for his credibility.

"Mr. Helms can bail himself out of this contradiction," the prosecutor declared. "This witness [Walters] doesn't have to do it."

The Helms memo suggests, on its face, that the then-CIA director—if not the CIA itself—was playing along with the Nixon White House's attempts to block the original Watergate investigation and prevent discovery of the Nixon campaign checks that one of the Watergate burglars had cashed. The proceeds from the checks, some of them issued through a Mexico City bank account, were used to help finance the bugging.

According to Neal, Helms has offered Watergate prosecutors an explanation for the memo, but it is evidently one they cannot accept. "It's a bit confusing to me," Neal said.

Mr. Nixon authorized the attempt to get the CIA to block the Watergate investigation at a meeting with Haldeman on June 23, 1972. Watergate prosecutors have charged that the ploy, which held up the FBI's investigation of the telltale campaign checks for some two weeks, was part of the cover-

up conspiracy.

For their part, however, Haldeman's lawyers are apparently trying to bolster suggestions that the CIA may have had something to cover up after all.

One of Haldeman's attorneys, Frank H. Strickler, began pursuing that theme as soon as Walters resumed testifying yesterday afternoon.

Strickler pointed out that Walters had stated in a July 28, 1972, memo that the CIA "had no contact whatsoever" with Watergate figure E. Howard Hunt Jr. "subsequent to Aug. 31, 1971." A former CIA agent, Hunt had prevailed on the agency for phony papers, disguises and other technical assistance in 1971 in connection with the White House-sponsored burglary at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The CIA has said it became increasingly suspicious of Hunt's requests and cut him off shortly before the 1971 Labor Day weekend when the Ellsberg burglary was carried out.

Strickler, however, cited a CIA memo dredged up by congressional investigators that said Hunt had gone back to the agency sometime between March and May, 1972, with a fresh request, this time for "a retired lockpicker and entryman."

Under questioning by Strickler, Walters indicated that he had not been aware of this when he wrote that all contacts with Hunt had stopped the year before.

"I heard about this after the fact," he testified.

Strickler pointed out that the CIA memo about Hunt's pitch for a "lockpicker and entryman" had been written by the chief of a CIA unit identified only as the "EEAC."

"Can you tell me what those initials are?" the Haldeman lawyer asked Walters.

"You've got me," replied the CIA's No. 2 man.

Judge Sirica ruled that he would not permit Walters to be cross-examined about "memos prepared by somebody else," and then sent the jurors back to their motel.

Helms memo came up as soon as the jurors left the courtroom. Haldeman's attorneys claimed that they have every right to question Walters about it since it was addressed to him. Prosecutor Neal replied that the CIA official would testify that he never saw it until mid-1973, when the Watergate cover-up had crumbled.

It was at that point that Sirica announced his determination to call Helms as a witness before the trial is done.

The only public explanation for the memo was offered last fall by CIA Director William L. Colby to the Senate Armed Services Committee. Colby said Helms laid down the directive because he was worried about news leaks from the FBI during the course of its Watergate investigation that could compromise sensitive CIA operations. The Helms memo, however, did not reflect any such concern.

Walters is to return to the witness stand today. Despite the overtures from the Nixon White House, he has said he had satisfied himself that the CIA had not been involved in any way in the Watergate incident and so informed then-White House counsel John W. Dean III on June 28, 1972—the day the Helms memo was ostensibly written.

The CIA deputy director, however, has also said he did not inform FBI Director Gray until a week later, on July 5, 1972, that the Watergate investigation would not in any way compromise the CIA.

Earlier in the day, former Nixon campaign strategist Frederick C. LaRue, who served as one of the paymasters in the Watergate scandal, said he always considered the money for the Watergate burglars part of an effort to keep them from implicating the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

LaRue said he even wore gloves on handling some of the cash to make sure that his fingerprints wouldn't turn up on the bills.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell's right-hand man at the re-election committee, LaRue said the secret payments to the original Water-

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